of eliminating operation of substandard ships in our region.

Fifth Pay Commission's Recommendation of One Rank One Pension

715. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended the grading of one rank on pension to all Ex-Servicemen;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted this recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Protection of Animals in Zoos

716. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the animals died/suffered injuries in the Zoos in the country due to visitors or the employees' negligence or while bringing them from other places, during the last three years;

(b) whether there have been any instances where any animals died while bringing them from another Zoos recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the preventive measures to protect the animals in the Zoos?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Sporadic incidences of animals dying/suffering of injuries in zoos because of the negligence of visitors or due to the negligence of the employees of zoos come to the notice of the Government from time to time. Recently the case of tiger getting out of its enclosure and mauling the zoo keeper at Mysore Zoo was reported. The tiger had to be shot down to save the life of the keeper.

In the National Zoological Park, Delhi, one Sambar and one Black buck died because of the consumption of polythene bags with left over food.

The incidences of animals dying because of shock and trauma during transport from one zoo to another are reported occassionally.

However, instances of animals dying because of negligence of zoo employees/visitors and during transportation from one zoo to another are insignificant in comparision to rate of mortality from sickness and injury.

(b) & (c) One Red Crown crane died during 1996-97 while it was being brought from Ueno Zoological Park, Japan to Kanpur Zoological Park, U.P., India.

(d) Following steps are taken to strengthen the preventive measures to protect the animals in zoos :

(i) The keepers are provided training in handling the animals safely.

(ii) Special programmes are conducted to educate visitors to refrain from teasing the animals.

(iii) Only experienced and skilled staff accompany animals being transported from one zoo to another.

(iv) Animals are transported from one zoo to another in appropriate sized cages. In respect of air journey International Air Transport Association Regulations are being followed.

(v) Provision has been made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Amended in 1991) to deal with the persons teasing the animals.

Compensation to Hirakud Dam Oustees

717. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI A.C.JOS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after forty years of construction of the Hirakud Dam the oustees have not received any compensation so far;

(b) if so, the number of Dam oustees who have yet to receive the compensation;

(c) the reasons for non-payment to the oustees; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early settlement of the compensation cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The land oustees of Hirakud Dam have since received all compensation towards the acquisition of land.

(b) On the demand of the oustees for additional compensation, the Government of Orissa have decided to pay ex-gratia compensation at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per acre over and above the compensation already paid. Out of 8744 oustees, 3540 oustees are yet to get ex-gratia compensation.